

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

I. Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for returning the PTO 1449 forms with the current Office Action. However, one of the Non-Patent Literature Documents has not been initialed. Accordingly, Applicant is submitting herewith a copy of the partially initialed PTO 1449 form and respectfully requests the Examiner to initial the remaining document.

The Examiner has not acknowledged the drawings filed on September 9, 2003. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate, in the next Office Action, whether the drawings are acceptable.

Also, the Examiner has objected to the specification. In particular, the Examiner has objected to the reference made to the earlier filed parent Application. Since the parent Application has since issued, Applicant has amended the first paragraph to reflect the patent number. In view of the amendment, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,475,625 to Muto et al. ("Muto"). However, since Muto was not patented more than one year prior to the filing date of the present Application, Applicant submits

that the rejection is properly made under 35 102(e) (i.e., rather than under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)). Applicant assumes the Examiner made a typographical error in heading #3 of the rejection since the text of 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) was cited.

Regardless, the earliest filing date of Muto (i.e. April 5, 2001) is after the filing dates (i.e. November 2, 2000 and February 26, 2001) of Applicant's foreign priority documents JP 2000-336766 and JP 2001-50087. Accordingly, Applicant is hereby removing Muto as a prior art reference by perfecting the claim to foreign priority. Submitted herewith are verified English translations of JP 2000-336766 and JP 2001-50087. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4.

III. Conclusion

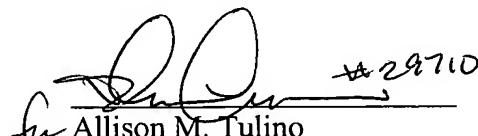
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/657,796

Attorney Docket No.: Q76089

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 18, 2005



PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified)

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Cont. of Appln. Number	09/984,450
Confirmation Number	Not yet assigned
Filing Date	ENTER DATE
First Named Inventor	Kazumasa KURIHARA
Art Unit	Not yet assigned
Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q76089

Sheet	1	of	2
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
BJS		US 5,618,599		04/08/97	Nulman et al.
		US 5,139,043		08/18/92	Hyde et al.
		US 6,405,747		06/2002	King et al.
		US 6,289,915		09/2001	Nulman et al.
		US 6,288,539		09/2001	Nishi et al.
		US 6,170,510		01/2001	King et al.
		US 6,035,884		03/2000	King et al.
		US 5,582,198		12/1996	Nagino et al.
	US 5,518,018		05/1996	Roetker, John J.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁴
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)			
BJS		EP	0 587 005	A1	03/16/94		
		EP	0 742 096	A2	11/13/96		
		EP	1 142 935	A2	10/10/01		
		EP	1 108 653	A1	06/20/01		
		EP	1 197 373	A2	04/17/02		
		DE	195 35 413	C1	10/02/96		
		EP	0 470 605	A1	02/12/92		
		EP	0 764 515	A2	03/26/97		
		DE	195 35 413	C1	10-02-1996		no
		WO	01/94819	A1	12-13-2001	VISTEON GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	
BJS		EP	1 142 935	A2	10-10-2001	KYOSAN DENKI CO., LTD.	
		EP	1 108 653	A1	06-20-2001	KURARAY CO., LTD.	

OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁴
		Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 2000 no. 4, August 31, 2000	

Examiner Signature	<i>David B. L.</i>	Date Considered	1/11/05
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.